



Washington State Department of Agriculture ➔ Endangered Species Program Newsletter

Endangered Species Program modifies strategy

The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) has modified its strategy for obtaining Endangered Species Act compliance for pesticide applicators in Washington.

The agency will still work collaboratively with stakeholders and federal agencies to develop tools to identify, evaluate and mitigate the impacts of pesticides on endangered species. However, the process to determine which pesticide uses may cause harm to, or potentially limit the recovery of endangered fish, is currently being performed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The change is the result of a July 2002 court decision that found EPA in violation of its ESA obligations. The court ordered EPA to determine the impacts that 54 active ingredients used in pesticides might have on salmonids in consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

As EPA announces pesticides that may adversely affect salmonids, WSDA will collaboratively develop county bulletins with stakeholders and EPA. ➔

WSDA proposes state-initiated plan

EPA announced in December that it will consider state-initiated plans for protecting endangered species. WSDA will submit to EPA a proposal to enact a Washington-Initiated Plan.

The elements of the proposed Washington-Initiated Plan are:

- Identify the pesticides scheduled for evaluation by EPA
- Provide sufficient time to consult with pesticide manufacturers and user groups to assure that EPA has accurate use information*
- Use all relevant monitoring, pesticide use, commodity and salmonid mapping data to develop a geographic synthesis and submit the resulting data table and maps to EPA
- If needed, design pesticide use mitigation measures with active participation from user groups and other stakeholders
- If needed, present these pesticide use mitigation measures to EPA as county bulletins

For more information, or to comment on EPA's field implementation and state-initiated plans, see the article on Page 2 related to Federal Register notices. ➔

**WSDA staff are working with commodity organizations to develop pesticide use information and document current best management practices. All data collected is peer reviewed by involved pesticide users, researchers and stakeholders.*



February 7, 2003

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Bridget Moran
Program Coordinator/
Environmental Toxicologist
(360) 902-1936
bmoran@agr.wa.gov

Deborah Bahs
Western WA ESA Specialist
(360) 902-2067
dbahs@agr.wa.gov

Perry Beale
Crops & Mapping Specialist
(360) 902-2065
pbeale@agr.wa.gov

Jim Cowles, Ph.D.
Environmental Toxicologist
(360) 902-2066
jcowles@agr.wa.gov

Ed Thompson
IT Application Specialist
(360) 902-2064
ethompson@agr.wa.gov

Ed Von Grey
Eastern WA ESA Specialist
(509) 662-0439
EVonGrey@agr.wa.gov

QUESTIONS?

For more information about the Endangered Species Program, visit our Web site at <http://agr.wa.gov/PestFert/EnvResources/EndangSpecies.htm>

WSDA welcomes your input. Please send your comments and questions to the Endangered Species Program
esp@agr.wa.gov

Awareness

Action

Recovery

Growers asked to participate in mitigation measures for propargite

Recently, WSDA met with grower groups to discuss EPA's proposed mitigation measures for propargite, the active ingredient in the miticide Omite and Comite. Propargite is the first pesticide for which EPA has proposed mitigation measures following a determination that it may affect Pacific Northwest salmonids.

EPA proposed 300-foot buffers for propargite applications. Through grower cooperation, education and outreach, WSDA plans to design local alternatives to EPA's proposal. By conferring with growers on propargite use practices, WSDA will assure that, if needed, mitigation measures are designed to protect salmonids as well as preserving necessary tools for Washington agriculture.



Propargite, used to control two-spotted spider mites, received a "may affect" finding for some endangered species.

WSDA met with representatives of the mint industry Jan. 30, potato and hop growers Jan. 31, and grape growers Feb. 5, 2003. Representatives of Crompton Inc., the company that manufactures Omite and Comite also participated in the discussions. ➔

County Bulletins describe ESA mitigation measures

As EPA announces pesticides that may adversely affect salmonids, WSDA, in collaboration with stakeholders, will develop County Bulletins for the Washington State-Initiated Plan. County Bulletins are a form of supplemental pesticide labeling that specifies additional use limitations that are needed to protect endangered species. Each is tailored to the specific county.

County Bulletins name the species of concern, list the pesticides that may harm those species, describe the use limitations needed to protect them and provide county-level maps showing the geographic areas associated with the use limitations. ➔

Comments due on ESA-related Federal Register Notices

EPA is seeking comments on two notices filed in the Federal Register. Instructions for submitting comments electronically may be found at the Web sites listed below.

The first notice describes field implementation of EPA's Endangered Species Protection Plan. Comments are due March 3, 2003. The notice appeared in the Dec. 2, 2002 Federal Register: Volume 67, Number 231; Page 71549-71561. This may be found on the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-PEST/2002/December/Day-02/p30463.htm>.

The second notice describes alternative mechanisms for ESA consultations on pesticides. Comments are due March 10, 2003. The notice appeared in the Jan. 24, 2003 Federal Register: Volume 68, Number 16; Page 3785-3795. This may be found on the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-PEST/2003/January/Day-24/p1661.htm>. ➔

Web sites related to ESA and pesticides

- EPA Endangered Species Protection Program (ESPP) <http://www.epa.gov/espp/>
- EPA effects determinations <http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/endanger/effects/>
- Endangered Species Act (ESA) <http://endangered.fws.gov/esa.html>
- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/1salmon/salmesa/index.htm>
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW) <http://endangered.fws.gov/> ➔